

January 30, 2013

Christina Proggess  
USEPA; Region 8  
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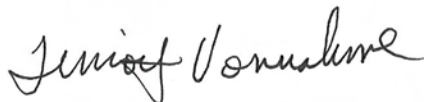
Dear Ms. Proggess:

EPA CONTRACT NUMBER EP-W-10-033  
TASK ORDER NUMBER 2021  
QA SUPPORT FOR RI/FS AT THE LIBBY ASBESTOS SITE OU3

Enclosed please find the Fourth Quarter 2012 Quarterly QA Report. This report is a deliverable under Task 5 of Task Order 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Vonnahme  
Audit Group Manager, QATS Program

cc: Shari Myer, EPA-ASB QATS Project Officer  
Administrative Contracting Officer (Letter only)  
Audit Group Files



The Quality Assurance Technical Support Program's Quality Management System is certified to the ISO 9001:2008 International Standard



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## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Christina Progross and Dania Zinner, USEPA Region 8

FROM: Michael Lenkauskas, Shaw Environmental, Inc.

DATE: January 30, 2013

SUBJECT: Fourth Quarter 2012 Quarterly QA Report – Task Order 2021

This technical memorandum represents the Fourth Quarter 2012 Quarterly QA Report for Task Order 2021, *Quality Assurance Support for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Operable Unit 3 of the Libby Asbestos Site (Libby OU3)*. It includes, by task and QA element, a summary of QA procedures for the period of October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The QA elements addressed in this quarterly report are consistent with Tasks 1-9 of Task Order 2021 and represent work performed by Shaw Environmental, Inc. under its Quality Assurance Technical Support contract EP-W-10-033.

### Task 1 – Provide Technical Expertise

QATS prepared for and supported an on-site evaluation on November 19, 2012 of the amphibian toxicology study being conducted at the Fort Environmental Laboratories (FEL) in Stillwater, OK. Preparation included a review of FEL's Quality Assurance Manual (QAM), relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and study protocol, and also the development of an on-site evaluation checklist. The on-site evaluation involved a compliance assessment of laboratory procedures to the protocol, Amphibian Complete Metamorphosis Exposure Study (FEL Study No. GOLD03-00277). The purpose of the toxicology study is to support the evaluation of potential ecological risk at the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site in Libby, MT

### Task 2 – Provide On-site Audit Reports

QATS submitted the draft Fort Environmental Laboratory (FEL) on-site evaluation report to EPA on December 17, 2012 and, after EPA review and approval, submitted a final report to EPA on December 18, 2012.

FEL provided a response to the on-site evaluation report on November 28, 2012. The one finding identified was not disputed by the laboratory; therefore, no further response from FEL was required. An EPA resolution report will be submitted during the next quarter.



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### **Task 3 – Development and Review of SOPs and other Quality Documents**

No activities were assigned during the quarter.

### **Task 4 – Libby Amphibole Mentoring Program**

No activities were assigned during the quarter.

### **Task 5 – Quarterly Report**

This document represents the first quarterly report issued under Task Order 2021.

### **Task 6 – Quality Control (QC) Sample Program**

During the quarter, the selection of samples for multiple TEM inter-laboratory studies was initiated through queries to the Scribe database. EPA has requested that, in addition to 2012, studies also be conducted from TEM analyses performed in 2010 and 2011.

In accordance with laboratory modification LB-000029C, QATS selected 0.5% of the samples analyzed by in 2010 and 2011 for an inter-laboratory study. The selected samples were provided to EPA on the required distribution spreadsheets, which identify the laboratory that performed the original analysis and also the laboratory selected to perform the inter-laboratory analyses.

### **Task 7 – Data Validation of Asbestos Deliverables**

During the quarter, QATS initiated the development of asbestos data validation SOPs and associated validation checklists for TEM, PLM, and PCM analyses. Spreadsheet templates were developed to record laboratory quarterly calibration submissions in an effort to streamline the validation process. Microscope TEM and PLM calibration data for Quarters 1, 2, and 3 of 2012 were entered into the templates. The calibration data now entered into spreadsheets will allow laboratories to only submit the calibration data once, and not with every submitted data package. This also streamlines the validation process by allowing the validator to evaluate the calibration data once, and not every time the calibration data are submitted with each data package.

### **Task 8 – Conference Calls**

No activities were assigned during the quarter.

### **Task 9 – Annual Summary Report**

An annual summary report of all QA activities performed during the 2012 contract year is tentatively due on April 15, 2013.